

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 31, 2008, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by June 30, 2008.

Claims 1, 3, and 6-8 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,644,847 to Odendahl et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 365,441 to Larsh.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 5, 7, and 8 if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In the present amendment, the specification has been amended to add a cross reference to the related priority documents, to add standard headings and to delete reference to the claims.

In light of the allowance of claims 5, 7, and 8, claim 1 was amended to add the features of allowed claim 5 and intervening claims 2 and 4. Claim 1 now stands in condition for allowance, along with claims 3 and 6-8. Claims 2, 4, and 5 have been canceled.

The application in its amended state is believed to be in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited. Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much

welcome a telephone call in order to resolve any issues that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Striker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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